

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A resin composition comprising a biodegradable resin and an organically modified layered silicate, the organically modified layered silicate comprising a layered silicate and a substituted silyl group, the substituted silyl group bonding to the layered silicate and comprising a substituted or non-substituted alkyl group, and the layered silicate ~~comprising a silanol group on a surface thereof~~ being selected from the group consisting of kanemite, makatite, magadiite, and kenyaite,

wherein the substituted silyl group further comprises a substituent selected from the group consisting of an amino group, an epoxyethyl group, an epoxyethyloxy group, a vinyl group, an isopropenyl group, a 1-phenylvinyl group, a 4-vinylphenyl group, an isocyanate group, and a hydroxyl group and the substituent directly bonds to a silicon atom of the substituted silyl group, and

wherein the number of carbon atoms in the alkyl group is 3 or greater and 18 or less.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The resin composition as claimed in claim 22, wherein the biodegradable resin is a polyester-based resin.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The resin composition as claimed in claim 23, wherein the polyester-based resin is poly(lactic acid).

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A resin molded object, wherein the resin molded object is obtained by molding the resin composition as claimed in claim 22.

Claim 26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently amended): A resin composition comprising a biodegradable resin and an organically modified layered silicate, the organically modified layered silicate comprising a layered silicate and a substituted silyl group, the substituted silyl group bonding to the layered silicate and comprising a substituted or non-substituted alkyl group, and the layered silicate comprising a silanol group on a surface thereof being selected from the group consisting of kanemite, makatite, magadiite, and kenyaite,

wherein the substituted or non-substituted alkyl group is a substituted first alkyl group, the substituted first alkyl group comprises a substituent selected from the group consisting of an amide linkage, an ester linkage, an N-oxymethyleneamino group, and an N,N-di(oxymethylene)amino group, the substituent bonds to a terminal of the first alkyl group, and the substituent comprises a non-substituted second alkyl group, and

wherein the total of the number of carbon atoms in the first alkyl group and the number of carbon atoms in the second alkyl group is 3 or greater and 18 or less.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The resin composition as claimed in claim 27, wherein the biodegradable resin is a polyester-based resin.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The resin composition as claimed in claim 28, wherein the polyester-based resin is poly(lactic acid).

Claim 30 (Previously presented): A resin molded object, wherein the resin molded object is obtained by molding the resin composition as claimed in claim 27.

Claim 31 (New): The resin composition as claimed in claim 22, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of an epoxyethyl group, an epoxyethyloxy group, a 1-phenylvinyl group, a 4-vinylphenyl group, and an isocyanate group.

Claim 32 (New): The resin composition as claimed in claim 27, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of an N-oxymethyleneamino group and an N,N-di(oxymethylene)amino group.

Claim 33 (New): The resin composition as claimed in claim 22, wherein the layered silicate is selected from the group consisting of kanemite and makatite.

Serial No. 10/580,336
Response to Office Action Dated 09/07/2010
Page 5 of 8

Claim 34 (New): The resin composition as claimed in claim 27, wherein the layered silicate is selected from the group consisting of kanemite and makatite.